

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-05

A-01 OPR-02 MCT-01 OMB-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01 CU-04 /080 W

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P R 100853Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5431

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 1012

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PINS,SF

REF: CAPE TOWN 1008

SUMMARY- RIOTING FLARED AT VARIOUS POINTS IN CAPE TOWN AREA
YESTERDAY (SEPTEMBER 9) WITH PARTICULAR HEAVY STONING, LOOTING
AND ARSON IN "COLORED" SUBURBS OF MANENBERG WHERE 12 PEOPLE
REPORTED KILLED. DEATH TOLL FOR PAST TWO DAYS NOW PUT AT
19 BY POLICE. CAPE TIMES NEWSPAPER APPEALED FOR "PEACE
OFFENSIVE" IN FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL AND STUDENT COUNCIL AT UCT
HAS CALLED FOR 3-DAY CLOSURE TO PROTEST INJUSTICES. END
SUMMARY.

1. EXTENSIVE RIOTING OCCURRED PRIMARILY IN "COLORED" AREAS
AROUND CAPE TOWN SEPTEMBER 9. HEAVY ACTION WAS IN MANENBERG
A "COLORED" SUBURB ALONG LANSDOWNE ROAD NEAR DF MALAN AIRPORT.
POLICE REPORTEDLY BATTLED FOR HOURS TO BREAK UP CROWDS WHO
BURNED AND LOOTED BUILDINGS AND STONED VEHICLES. TWELVE WERE
CONFIRMED KILLED BY POLICE AND AT LEAST 30 ARRESTED. THE
CENTER OF THE CITY WAS FREE OF DEMONSTRATORS FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN SEVERAL DAYS. DOCTORS AND NURSES AT GREEN POINT
HOSPITAL HELD BRIEF AND PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST
DEATHS AND INJURIES CALLING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS.
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2. AT PAROW INDUSTRIAL AREA IN ELSIES RIVER, FACTORIES REMAINED CLOSED AS RESULT OF PREVIOUS DAYS RIOTING AND THERE WAS SPORADIC STONING AND BURNING. IN A FAMILIAR PATTERN, ANGRY CROWDS DISPERSED UNDER POLICE FIRE AND REFORMED AS SOON AS POLICE VEHICLES LEFT. HEAVY STONING BURNING AND LOOTING WERE REPORTED ALSO IN REVENSMEAD AND RETREAT. IN LATTER AREA SHOPPING CENTER WRECKED BY STONE THROWING STUDENTS AND HEAVY STONING OF VEHICLES REPORTED ON ST GEORGE'S DRIVE, A MAJOR ARTERY THROUGH RETREAT. SIMILAR ACTIVITY ALSO REPORTED IN "BLACK" TOWNSHIPS OF NYANGA AND GUGULETU.

3. ELSEWHERE IN AREA, POLICE FORMED CONVOYS TO ESCORT CARS THROUGH HELSHOOgte PASS FROM STELLENBOSCH TO BANHOEK DUE TO STONING OF CARS IN IDS'S VALLEY. BUILDINGS AND CARS WERE BURNED IN PAARL AND BUS SERVICE TO THE AREA WAS SUSPENDED. DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ALSO REPORTED AT MOSEL BAY, OUDTSHOORN, KIMBERLEY AND PORT ELIZABETH.

4. IN FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL HEADLINED "WANTED: A PEACE OFFENSIVE" CAPE TIMES NEWSPAPER DEPLORED INCREASING VIOLENCE WHICH WOULD DESTROY SOCIETY. ACKNOWLEDGING NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE AND DECRYING LACK OF LEADERSHIP, IT URGED CITIZENS TO US ALL CHANNELS, E.G. NEWSPAPERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHURCHES, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS, LETTERS TO MPS, ETC. TO "GET A POWERFUL PUBLIC OPINION GOING FOR PEACE". EDITORIAL SAID NOT ONLY THOSE DEPRIVED OF REPRESENTATION BUT ALSO THOUSANDS OF THE "PRIVILEGED" ARE THOROUGHLY ASHAMED OF EXISTING INJUSTICES. IT SAID PROBLEMS WERE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL AND POWERFUL NEW PRESSURES WERE UNDER WAY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THEM. HOWEVER, EFFORTS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW SOUTH AFRICA COULD ONLY GO ON IN CONDITION OF PEACE AND CALM. IT ASKED READERS TO DO WHAT THEY COULD TO GET A "PEACE OFFENSIVE" GOING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAPET01012
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760342-0212
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760974/aaaac1fb.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CAPE TOWN 1008
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 AUG 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006